HOTEL CONTINENTAL HILTON.
ROMA 39. MEXICO 6. D. F.
TELEFONOS: 46-40-11
Y 46-68-72

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KATHERINE MANJARREZ

Sept. 18, 1971

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thank you for your time-consuming letter. Don't worry about the uncancelled stamps, etc., this is merely Mexican inefficiency and happens all the time.

Your observations on Garrison corrorborate to some extent what Turner wrote me after the trial - that Garrison caused a mutiny within his own office by accusing his staff of being infiltrated by the CIA. Turner seemed to have become disillusioned, too. I've heard remarks about Mark Lane re yours, also. Do you know the status of Garrison-Lane relations at this point? If I'm not mistaken they've phffft...

In reviewing my files I noted at one point I suggested to Garrison that he call for a Senate investigation. A few month's later the papers reported he did. What became of it? Why didn't some of our more outspoken senators (Fulbright, ie) take it on themselves to investigate the Warren Report? Why didn't the Kennedy family get into the act somehow? Garrison said he wasn't at all surprised when I asked the latter question. But he failed to explain. Why hasn't someone charged you with whatever it is they can charge you? Do you think the truth will ever come out? Nearly the same approach can be made to the Kaplan case, which isn't of course the reason the two might be connected. However, the closed files, slamming doors, fears, smoke-screens, etc. do follow the same CIA route, which still doesn't make a connection.

Concretely, there is the following:

Pres. Kennedy gave one of the reasons for the defeat at the Bay of Pigs in March 27, 1961 issue of U. S. News and World report - as someone who knew the exile's secret plan tipped Castro to the time and place of landing. A source speculating on this said the Pres. wanted to tear the cia apart after the Bay of Pigs, and "was his violent anger linked to secret matters which lie hidden in the Vidal murder case?" According to what Joel Kaplan told me, Vidal knew the Bay of Pigs affair very well. An attorney

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for Kaplan who used to come from NY to see him in prison here told me Vidal was to have headed a second Bay of Pigs but the plan was cancelled because of many leaks. He also said Vidal reneged. Vidal was known to have been playing both sides, offering guns he could not deliver, to anyone who would buy them. The point of the latter sentence is that Vidal's loyalty was always questionable. It is hardly known whose side he was on at what point. And it is speculated that he could have been the "tip-off" in the Bay of Pigs disaster.

During one of our many interviews Joel Kaplan said he thought the cases were connected, and one of the reasons were the Ferreira Bros. who were operating the Fibrelite Co. in New Orleans. They have since moved back to Puerto Rico. They are cousins of Vidal and their company's products were made from sugar. Kaplan said the Warren Report was full of holes and only used to cover deeper things, that he didn't think the Kennedy plot would ever be revealed entirely.

Could be just a coincidence but Jack Ruby was involved in the same arms sale negotiations as Vidal. A source reported that Volume XIV of the Warren Report gives testimony of Mrs. Nancy Perrin Rich's husband (Perrin) selling Enfield rifles as was Vidal. Ruby was present at meetings conducted in Guadalajara, also present was Vito Genovese's son, Tony, Vito in prison for narcotics violations. Syndicates furious at loss of narcotics and gambling revenues when Castro took over, and negotiating. CIA reported to have been aware of vast amounts of narcotics involved and even said to have been in on deals.

Kaplan's role in the assassination? He knows too much. He ~~never~~ NEVER told his attorney here, Velasquez, everything, as he admitted to us both: "if you had knowledge of something that would cost you your life, would you tell it?", and on other occasions when I'd ask him why he was stuck with the plot - he'd reply, "even though I should be helped (Humphrey called ~~Velasquez~~ Ambassador Freeman here in front of Velasquez, Jack Valenti went to see Kaplan, DeLesseps Morrison, too) - I guess I'm not too important when you think of what is really involved. Governments and high officials of the U. S. government."

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Kaplan told me to find out why Robert Kennedy went to such great lengths to have Koppelsohn (an accomplice in the plot to kill Vidal, a reported Israeli agent, smuggled out of Mexico by the Israeli underground, a fact told to me by same visiting attorney from NY) - extradicted from France when the French government was willing to offer political asylum.

Reason why I don't think I can do it alone: Much too involved for my limited knowledge of syndicates, sugar diplomacy, espionage, - too many characters in the scenario - conflicting evidence - falsified documents - personal ego damage - like a centipede with one body and 100 legs, but each leg doesn't know what the other is doing.

However, if I do get a publisher who will back me I do know where to begin to check many things that could lead to a clear story outline, although not necessarily a conclusion. There is also the possibility that one of the many persons involved would open up now that Kaplan is out - there is also the dubious possibility that Kaplan might keep his promise to me and send me the "script" ~~as he promised~~ since I was very helpful to him, not only because he didn't kill Vidal (Kaplan is admittedly no boy scout but murder, no) - but because I cared that the CIA is an unchecked force in our country (a fact I discussed with Nizer, the snake, you are right, and who said "I know") - and mostly because if it ties in with Pres. Kennedy's assassination - a reporter has no choice.

Do any of the above statements relate the two cases to you?

I can well imagine your nightmarish aftermath, after having gone so far out on your own. Thank you for offering your files, ~~but~~ if I get a publisher I most certainly will look them over, and more important, have liberty to discuss matters further with you. My finances aren't very pretty either, and I wish we lived in a world that didn't move on money - it's so inhibiting!

Looking forward to your further impressions -

Best,

Pearl Gonzalez

Pearl Gonzalez